

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 7-12, 17, 18, and 24-29 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-6, and 19-23 are allowed.

Claims 13-16 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,357,579 B1 to Patterson et al ("Patterson et al") in view of Poly Hi Solidur's literature SYSTEM TIVAR Custom Solutions for Food Processing ("Poly Hi Solidur's literature"), and further in view of Regal Plastic's Plastics Reference Handbook ("Regal Plastic's Handbook").

To date, no Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review has been received. Applicant respectfully requests receipt of this document when it becomes available. Please note that the original drawings filed in the patent application are "formal" drawings.

All claims that currently stand rejected or withdrawn are canceled by this amendment. Thus, all remaining claims have been indicated as allowed.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a

Application No. 09/971,716
Amendment dated July 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 16, 2004

fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.


Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Douglas A. Sorensen
Registration No. 31,570
Attorney for Applicant

DAS/llb:bar:jkk
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3482
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
July 13, 2004

DAI 294784v4